

Orison is made up of four zones...

Bubble Zone

A relaxed, calming area, giving pupils a chance to stop and think about whatever is on their minds. The centerpiece of this zone is a bubble tube with bubbles rising as a symbol of our prayers going "up" to God.

Sorry Zone

Pupils use magnadoodles and dissolving vitamin tablets to explore the difficult questions of forgiving and being forgiven, thinking about letting go, being released and exploring the emotions related to these situations.

World Zone

Pupils use maps, newspapers and information about local and global issues to pray about the things going on in the world around them.

Image Zone

The image zone is a chance for pupils to consider their image and identity, using mirrors, positive quotes about image and self-worth, thinking about communities using tiny paper people, and knowing that they belong as they write their names on images of hands.

"The best bit was the image zone. It really made me think about myself and who I am"

Girl / Year 7

"You don't have to get on your knees to pray"

Boy / Year 7

"I enjoyed the bubble zone most. It made me feel relaxed and I had a nice conversation with God"

Boy / Year 5

"I liked the sorry zone the most because it is hard to forgive and I forgave someone"

Girl / Year 8

"I would like to come back"

Boy / Year 5

"I forgave the people who bullied me"

Comments from pupils who recently experienced Orison



Orison is an interactive resource which exists to encourage people of all ages to consider questions of spirituality and to engage with God through creative, hands-on activities. It is closely linked with the National Curriculum Guidelines for Religious Education and can be used in primary and secondary schools, as well as in churches, youth groups and various other situations.

The material is developed and run by two qualified teachers, one primary and one secondary, as part of the Grassroots Trust, a registered charity through which Orison is funded by voluntary donations.

Orison is staffed by the Orison team, alongside volunteers from local churches, all of whom are CRB checked.

Contact details

Email:
info@orisonschools.org.uk

Website:
www.orisonschools.org.uk

Orison is a project of:



Grassroots Trust
Registered Charity
number: 1060034
8 Meadow Way, Rowledge,
Farnham, Surrey, GU10 4DY
www.grassroots.org.uk

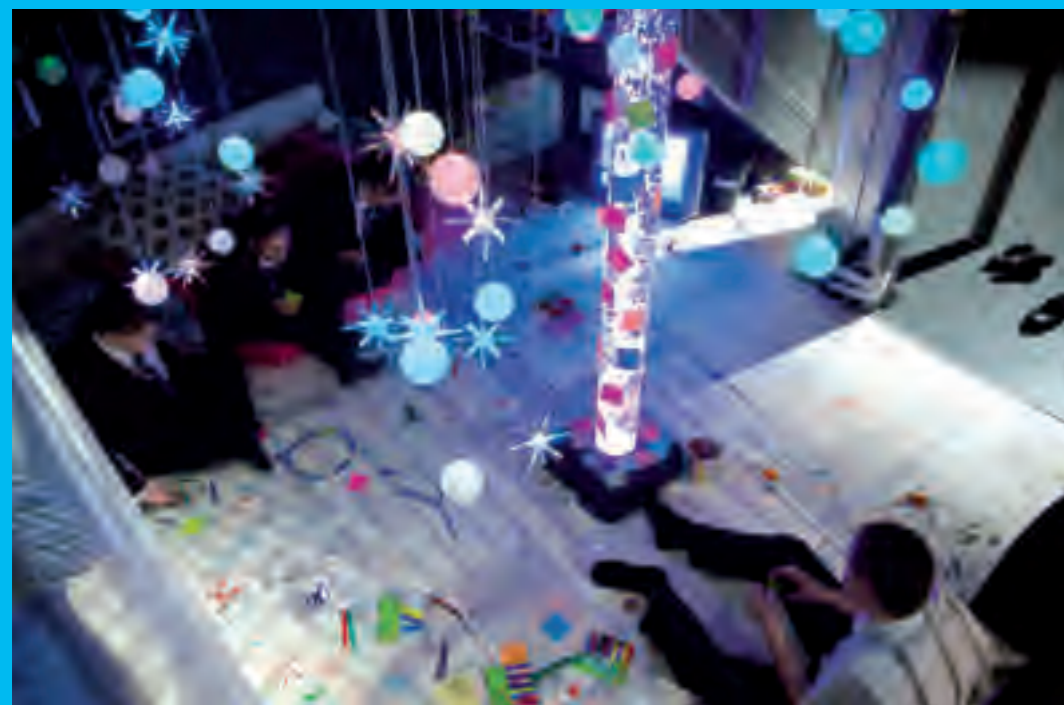


"I've been quite surprised at the depth of some of the comments that have been put into the prayer box, which they knew I was going to read. Some of the cries that come from them have been quite moving. It has been a great experience for them, and definitely something we want to develop even further next year."

Jane Whittington
Headteacher, Potters Gate Primary School, Farnham

Orison is an interactive spiritual experience in schools...

Encouraging pupils of primary and secondary age to engage with prayer using creative, hands on activities.



Set up in a classroom, school hall or even a tent on the field, pupils are given a brief introduction to the experience, including a short video about prayer, before being guided through the space, exploring themes of prayer, forgiveness, identity and local and world news issues.

From writing prayer requests on post it notes, considering the bubbles going up a large bubble tube, dissolving sugar cubes in water and sticking prayers on maps, pupils will enjoy activities which are fun, interactive, thought provoking and challenging.

The National Curriculum non-statutory programme of study for Religious Education says that all pupils should learn about religion and from religion.

RE at Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 should enable pupils to:

- Reflect on the relationship between beliefs, teachings, world issues and ultimate questions.
- Evaluate beliefs, commitments and the impact of religion in the contemporary world.
- Express insights into the significance and value of religion and other world views for human relationships personally, locally and globally.
- Express their own beliefs and ideas using a variety of forms of expression, including creative forms and reasoned arguments.

Through the zones and activities, Orison provides ways in which pupils of all ages can engage with all of the above objectives, at their own level.

Orison is an adaptable resource and can be tailored to best suit your school situation. Suitable for primary or secondary age pupils, our team will work with you to choose zones which are appropriate for your pupils and to create resources that best use the space available in your school.

Primary

In primary schools, Orison consists of two areas. An activity area, in which pupils explore issues of forgiveness, praying for their local area and ways of connecting with God, with plenty of time to relax around the bubble tube to think or pray about things which are on their minds. For particularly sensitive issues, a private "worry box" is available and pupils know that the team will read and pray for anything put into this box, before passing it onto the headteacher. The second area is a craft area, which continues the themes raised in the activity area as pupils think about different aspects of prayer.

Secondary

Orison in secondary schools can have as many zones or themes as you like, although three to five allows pupils to best experience them all in one lesson. Pupils begin their Orison experience together, watching a short video to introduce the theme with a brief explanation from the team. They are then given time to explore the zones, either at their own pace, or in small groups with allocated time slots in each zone. Team members are available in each zone to explain the activities and answer any questions the pupils have. The lesson ends with a short debrief and discussion and an

opportunity for pupils to feed back on the session.

What do we need?

The Orison team will work with you to create and run an Orison prayer space in your school/venue.

Orison requires a space we can use for a day, a few days, a week, or however long you want the resource to be running in your school, plus a clear day before the start date to set up, either over the weekend or the school day before any pupils will be using the resource. This can be any room which will not be used for any other purposes whilst Orison is running.

There are some consumable materials which will be needed, such as pens, paper, post-it notes and similar.

We do try to keep the costs down as much as possible, and don't want finances to be the deciding factor in whether or not you run an Orison prayer space. Having said that, it does cost the charity £400 to set up for a day, and £200 for each subsequent day and that money has to come from somewhere. Any contribution you could make towards the running costs would be greatly appreciated. Please contact us to discuss your requirements.

